

WASHINGTON POST
29 August 1985**JACK ANDERSON and JOSEPH SPEAR**

New Shiite Terrorist Attack Expected

Terrorism experts in the State Department are expecting another attack on Americans by Shiite Moslems any day. Worse, they tell us that the U.S. government is no better prepared to respond than it has been in the past.

No one has been punished for repeated attacks on the lives and property of Americans.

The foreboding of yet another disaster is based on threats from Shiite leaders, secret intelligence reports—and the calendar.

Since April 1983, there have been roughly 20 attacks directed by the fundamentalist Moslem terrorists against Americans. The average timing of these incidents is one every 50 days—and the last one occurred on July 22, when the Northwest Airline office in Copenhagen was bombed. That was 38 days ago.

In the wake of that attack, a spokesman for the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the bombing and warned: "They are about to know that we can reach the heart of the U.S. White House, the Elysee Palace, 10 Downing Street, Jerusalem and the headquarters of any Arab foreign leader who cooperates with reactionary forces . . ."

This threat might be dismissed as pure bombast except for the unpleasant fact that the Shiites have made good on their previous boasts.

The record is undeniable, written in human blood and the dust of ruined buildings.

Intelligence reports reaching Washington repeatedly warn that the Islamic Jihad is still determined to strike at American targets.

Their resolve has been buttressed by a growing

confidence that they have nothing to fear in the way of retaliation by the United States.

Frustrated State Department sources told our associate Lucette Lagnado that little has been done to counteract the Shiite threat, beyond numerous planning sessions, strategy meetings, and the inevitable shuffling of memos back and forth.

This bureaucratic routine has led to no concrete action.

Yet insiders insist that not only are the individuals who planned and executed the anti-American attacks known to the U.S. government, their hideouts have been pinpointed as well.

The Lebanese government has said it knows the identity of the two hijackers who first seized the TWA plane flying out of Athens two months ago and murdered one of the American passengers. But there has been no move to arrest them and bring them to trial. Nor has there been any American undercover attempt to find and punish them.

Adding to the State Department experts' fears of another imminent terrorist attack is the fact that Israel has not made good on Syrian President Hafez Assad's promise to the Shiites that their associates in Israeli hands would be released in return for the freeing of the American hostages.

It was to obtain the release of the 735 Shiites held prisoner by Israel that the TWA plane was hijacked in the first place.

Although Israel did release most of the Shiite prisoners, between 200 and 300 of them are still being held.